

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #86B-4 Building Date: mid-late 19th c.

Building Name: Dr. John H. Skinner House

Location: 13610 Croom Road, Nottingham

Private/Residence/Occupied/Bad/Inaccessible

Description

The Dr. John H. Skinner House (Mansfield) stands at the top of a hill one-quarter mile east of Croom Road. It is a two-story frame cross-gable house. Highlighting the main south facade is a central pedimented gable at second level, with returned crown molded cornices. Filling the central gable is a pair of 2/2 windows. Centered on the ridge behind the central gable is a tall corbelled brick chimney. The south facade is four bays wide. In the third bay is an off-center door leading into a passage between a wide west parlor and a narrow east one. A large fireplace is centered in the interior wall of the west parlor. At the apex of the east and west gable ends are remnants of jig sawn pendants. The house is on a high deteriorated brick foundation. There is a two-story two-bay one-room wing at the rear, making the house T shaped. The entire house is sheathed with German siding, unpainted. The roof is covered with asphalt single. East of the house, enclosed in an iron fence, is the family burial ground. There are six altar tombs, with full-size slabs. To the north of the house is a twentieth century gable-roofed barn with wide vertical siding and concrete foundation. There are two more barns down the hill, southeast of the house. One is a board-and-batten gable-roofed stable. East of it is an older gable-roofed barn, with a deep overhang on its north face. Its siding consists of wide split boards laid horizontally. The rafters are of hand hewn materials.

Significance

The Dr. John Skinner House is significant both for the history of its 295 acres and as part of a nineteenth century farm complex including cemetery and outbuildings. Mansfield was patented in 1663 and has belonged to descendants of the same family since the 18th century. John Henry Skinner, a physician and planter, acquired the property from his father in 1846 and owned Mansfield until his death in 1883. He willed it to his nephew; John Henry Skinner Sasscer, who died in 1892. Mansfield then went to Sasscer's brother, Reverdy Sasscer. The house was used as a tenant house and has been uninhabited for 25 years. The house appears on the 1861 Martenet Map but appears to date later than 1861. It is in such poor condition it is difficult to date it. Graves in the cemetery range from 1845 to 1905. The 1897 Tax Assessment lists a number of outbuildings. In a complex southeast of the house, a small barn or stable appears to date from the early 19th century.

Acreage: 295 acres

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. John H. Skinner House (Mansfield)

and/or common Dr. John H. Skinner House

2. Location

street & number 13610 Croom Road (Maryland Route 382) ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro Croom vicinity of congressional district 4

state MD county Prince George

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mary Sasscer George

street & number 2011 Sunrise Drive telephone no.:

city, town Fernand-na Beach state and zip code Florida 32034

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3603

street & number Main Street folio 112

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date July 1981 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state MD

7. Description

Survey No. ^{PC}86 B-4

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dr. John H. Skinner House stands at the top of a hill approximately one-quarter mile east of Croom Road. It is a two-story frame cross-gable house which faces roughly south. Highlighting this main south facade is a wide central pedimented gable at second level, with returned cornices which are boxed and have a crown molding. Filling the central gable is a pair of 2/2 double hung sash windows. Centered on the ridge behind the central gable is a tall, wide corbelled brick chimney. The (main) south facade is four (irregular) bays wide. In the third bay is an off-center door (once sheltered by a porch, now destroyed); this door leads into a passage way between a wide parlor on the west and a narrow one on the east. There is a large fireplace centered in the interior wall of the west parlor. There is another (smaller) interior brick chimney at the ridge at the east gable end, which serves a stove pipe in the east parlor. At the apex of the east and west gable ends are remnants of jig sawn pendants. The house rests on a high brick foundation, seriously deteriorated. Visible in the crawl space within this foundation are massive brick piers supporting the central chimney.

There is a two-story two-bay one-room wing at the rear (north), making the house T shaped. This wing rests on a poured concrete foundation. Entrance to the wing is through a door in its second bay. The entire house is sheathed with German siding, unpainted. The roof is covered with asphalt single.

To the east of the house, enclosed within an iron spike fence, is the family burial ground. There are six low brick-lined altar tombs, with full-size inscribed slabs for members of the Skinner family.

To the north of the house is a twentieth century gable-roofed barn. Entrance is through double doors on its south side. It has wide vertical siding, a metal roof, and concrete foundation.

There are two more barns down the hill to the southeast of the house. One is a board-and-batten gable-roofed stable, built during this century. Just east of it is an older gable-roofed barn, with a deep overhang on its north face. The siding of this barn consists of wide split boards laid horizontally. The rafters are of hand hewn materials.

These two farm buildings are still in use; a third barn nearby is in totally ruinous condition.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG 86 B-4

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | |
| | | | | local history |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dr. John Skinner House is significant both for the history of its tract of land, which presently encompasses 295 acres. The house is and as a part of a fairly well preserved nineteenth century farm complex including house, cemetery and outbuildings. The house was built and inhabited by a prominent nineteenth century Prince Georgian, Dr. John Henry Skinner.

Mansfield was patented in 1663¹ and has belonged to descendants of the same family since its sale to Gunder Erickson early in the eighteenth century.² John Henry Skinner, a wealthy physician and planter, acquired the property from his father in 1846.³

Skinner owned Mansfield from 1846 to his death in 1883, when he willed the property to his nephew, John Henry Skinner Sasscer, son of Dr. Frederick Sasscer of Upper Marlboro.⁴ The young Sasscer died in 1892 and Mansfield was passed to his brother, Reverdy Sasscer.⁵ The house has been used as a tenant house throughout the twentieth century and has been uninhabited for the past twenty-five years⁶ although the property is still farmed.

The house appears on both the 1861 Martenet Map and the 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County. It was built in the cross-gable vernacular style and appears to date later than 1861. It is in such poor condition it is difficult to assign a date to it. Grave dates in the family cemetery range from Benjamin Skinner's in 1845 to Martha Amelia Mackall Hollyday's in 1905.

The 1897 Tax Assessment of the property lists a number of outbuildings.⁷ There are a number of outbuildings in a complex southeast of the house. One of these, a small barn or stable, appears to date from the early 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ^{PC-}86 B-4

See Footnotes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 295 acres

Tax map 148, parcel 11

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, Section D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date September 1985

street & number 14743 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive

telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

Notes

- 1 "Tracts laid out in Calvert County prior to April 23, 1696," Prince George's Heritage, Louise Joyner Hienton, Maryland Historical Society, 1972.
- 2 "Early Land Records, Prince George's County," an index, History Division, M-NCPPC.
- 3 Land Records of Prince George's County, PC 1:308, will of Elisha Skinner.
- 4 Ibid. WAJ Jr. 1:289.
- 5 Ibid. Administration #1454.
- 6 Conversation with Helen Sliker.
- 7 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 4th District, 1897, 11858.

PA
2613-4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. NAME | | | | |
| COMMON: | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: DR. J. H. SKINNER | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Rt. 382 | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Croom | | | | |
| STATE: Maryland | | | COUNTY: Prince George's | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress |
| | | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Vacant | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: Mary S. George | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro | | | STATE: Maryland | |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | |

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two-story, frame structure of cross gable design. The facade is three bays with a central entrance. There is a large chimney. The rear section is an addition.

There are three sheds and barns behind the house. They are framed, with hewn members mortised, tenoned and pegged. The sheathing is boards laid horizontally or vertically. One has the facade on the side, with a central double door, and long porch supported by unshaped log posts. The others have gabled facades with double doors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
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| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: CHRISTOPHER OWENS, PARK HISTORIAN | |
| ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC | DATE 27 August '74 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring | STATE Maryland |

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

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MARY S. GEORGE
3603/112
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● 86B-4

MARY S. GEORGE

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382

BROOKFIELD
CHURCH

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3619/129
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UNITED
METH. CHURCH

5656/968

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CHURCH

ROAD

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NAYLOR

ROAD

CROOM

ROAD



P.G. #86 B-4

Dr. John H. Skinner House
Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86 B-4

Dr. John H. Skinner House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

April 1985

Barn - West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86 B-4

Dr. John H. Skinner House
Prince George's Co-nty, MD.
Marina King
April 1985
Southwest elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86 B-4

Dr. John H. Skinner House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

April 1985

Tenant House - West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME OF SCANNER - SHIRLEY

PG. 86B-4

LOCATION RTE. 382 N. OF TANYARD RD. NAYLOR, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 8/27/74 M. DWYER



NAME DR. SKINNER FARM - TENANT HOUSE

PG 86B-4

LOCATION RTE. 382 N. OF TANYARD RD. NAYLOR, MD.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 8/27/74 M. DWYER